



WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, Lydney, Newent & West Dean Rural Districts)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

A. T. HUNT

M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

for the year

1967

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
GENERAL ITEMS	7
EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL	12
LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL	26
NEWENT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL	44
WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL	55

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UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, Lydney, Newent & West Dean Rural Districts)

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year
1967

DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE,
COLEFORD, GLOS.

Tel. : Coleford 3364/5.

Residence : St. Briavels 284.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural District Councils of the West Gloucestershire United District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1967. I have endeavoured to include the essentials and at the same time to keep it as short as possible. The Vital Statistics are based on the figures supplied by the Registrar General.

The Report shows the progress made towards the uniform provision of essential domestic facilities in all households, but the figures of the Sample Census of 1966 showed higher percentages of households without these than other Rural Districts of the County.

The proposed reorganisation of Local Government makes the future of District Councils uncertain, but the cleavage of the Medical Officer of Health from Local Government to an integrated Medical Service appears inevitable. Some form of Health Inspectorate apart from the Public Health Inspectors and the other inspectorates will, however, appear to be necessary.

I attempted to produce this Report early and I requested the contributing officers to let me have their reports early. The Lydney Engineer and Surveyor, the West Dean Public Health Inspector and the three Housing Officers did this and the Rating Officers who supply information to me direct also did so, but unfortunately the other reports were received late.

The thanks I usually receive from the Councils I must pass largely to the other Officers of the Councils who have assisted me in this Report. Their reports are valuable records of what has been accomplished and guides to the future.

I am grateful to the Printers for their care and to my Clerk, Miss E. M. H. Hughes, for her careful work in assisting to compile this Report.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HUNT.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates

				<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
England and Wales	...	...		17.2	11.2
Gloucestershire	...	...	...	18.2 (17.7)	10.1 (10.7)
Combined Forest Area	...	...	...	16.6 (17.7)	11.0 (11.6)
East Dean	...	...	...	17.7 (18.4)	10.8 (11.5)
Lydney R.D.	...	...	...	16.4 (18.7)	9.6 (10.6)
Newent R.D.	...	...	...	15.9 (17.5)	9.2 (8.7)
West Dean	...	...	...	15.8 (16.5)	13.5 (13.8)

The Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population; the Death Rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 population. The figures in brackets are the adjusted rates which are obtained by multiplying the crude rate by the appropriate comparability factor issued by the Registrar General.

There were no deaths associated with childbirth.

There were 17 deaths during the first year of life (9 male and 8 female) ; of these 9 were during the first week, one was from the end of the first week to the end of the fourth week and 7 were from the end of the fourth week to the end of the first year.

Numbers of Births and Deaths

			<i>Estimated Population (mid 1967)</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Excess of Births over Deaths</i>
East Dean ...	...	...	21,080	374	228	146
Lydney R.D. ...	...	...	14,290	234	137	97
Newent R.D. ...	...	...	9,260	147	85	62
West Dean ...	...	...	17,620	279	238	41
Total Area ...	...	...	62,250	1,034	688	346

Chief Causes of Death

						<i>Percentage of total deaths</i>
Coronary disease and angina	...	...	...	...	...	18.2
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	13.8
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	3.1
Vascular disease of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	13.5
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	22.2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	5.5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4.8
Pneumoconiosis (contributed in 7 deaths)	...	...	...	...	...	1.0
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4.9

Cancer Deaths

			East Dean R.D.	Lydney R.D.	Newent R.D.	West Dean R.D.	Total
MALE							
Stomach	...	...	5	3	—	4	12
Lung and Bronchus	...	...	6	6	3	13	28
Other	...	...	12	5	5	11	33
Leukaemia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
FEMALE							
Stomach	...	...	1	3	1	—	5
Lung and Bronchus	...	...	2	—	2	2	6
Breast	...	...	4	3	5	6	18
Uterus	...	...	2	1	1	1	5
Other	...	...	14	5	9	17	45
Leukaemia	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	...	...	47	26	26	54	153

CAUSES OF DEATH	East Dean		Lydney		Newent		West Dean		Total Area		
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Syphilitic disease	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms	23	24	14	12	8	18	28	26	73	80	153
Diabetes	1	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	4	6
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	4	22	12	10	5	5	14	21	35	58	93
Coronary disease, angina	32	11	17	14	5	6	24	16	78	47	125
Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	4	3	7
Other heart disease	12	21	7	8	1	5	26	15	46	49	95
Other circulatory disease	3	2	4	3	1	4	3	1	11	10	21
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Pneumonia	9	7	3	1	3	3	7	5	22	16	38
Bronchitis	9	4	6	—	2	—	10	2	27	6	33
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	—	1	—	—	2	3	1	5	3	8
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	2	3	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	6	7
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	4	3	7
Hyperplasia of the prostate	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	3	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	3	2	5	2	5	7	5	19	18	37
Motor vehicle accidents	4	—	4	2	1	—	4	—	13	2	15
All other accidents	2	3	2	2	3	1	6	—	13	6	19
Suicide	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	4	1	5
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	119	109	75	62	33	52	138	100	365	323	688

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Scarlet Fever

Sixty-six cases were notified. There were scattered cases in Cinderford during the first half of the year. Cases arose in Lydney and Alvington during May and June.

Measles

Five hundred and forty-two cases were notified (599 in 1966). It was epidemic at Dymock in January, Staunton in January and February and St. Briavels in February and March, and Newent in June. Cases arose throughout West Dean Rural District from March to July. There was an epidemic in Cinderford and Ruspidge during the last quarter of the year.

No appreciable progress had been made with immunization.

Whooping Cough

Twenty-six cases were notified. Fourteen of these (10 in the Newent Rural District) were said to have been fully immunized. Twelve had not been immunized at all.

This disease tends to be less definite to diagnose and there must have been cases of coughs without the criteria of the typical clinical course. Immunization has reduced the incidence and severity of the disease, although clearly not yet eliminated it.

The Newent Rural District cases arose from April to September, the others from September to November (8 of these were in Cinderford and Ruspidge).

Food Poisoning and Salmonella Infections

Five cases were notified but there were a number of incidents. In April, 12 children and 3 teachers on holiday in the Lydney Rural District developed vomiting and some had diarrhoea. It appeared that this was most likely due to meat sandwiches which had been taken on a bus on an outing in hot weather, but no organisms were found and this was not proved. The children had also been given cold untreated cows' milk to drink.

In July, 44 out of 48 Girl Guides on holiday in the Newent Rural District, developed sickness and diarrhoea during their last night in camp. Some stew left over from a midday meal was stored in a cupboard in a tent during hot weather and added to corned beef to make a pie for the midday meal for the next day. The illnesses quickly cleared up and it would appear that this was a mild clostridial toxin outbreak, but unfortunately it was not possible, because of the Guides' return, to get specimens to confirm this.

In November, three people in West Dean developed vomiting after eating sild from a tin. It appeared quite likely that decomposition had commenced in these.

In November, three people in East Dean developed vomiting after eating deep frozen cod. No causative organisms were found.

There were three isolated cases of Salmonella infection in young children. One was in the Newent Rural District in March and was due to *S. heidelberg*. One was in October, in the Lydney Rural District and due to *S. typhimurium* and one in December in the Newent Rural District due to *S. typhimurium*. It is most likely that these isolated cases were not food borne.

In the West Dean Rural District in August, a farmer developed diarrhoea and sickness. He had been attending calves suffering from *S. dublin*. In October a man developed diarrhoea and he blamed a steak eaten at a restaurant. It appeared, however, that this was an infection which commenced before the meal.

There were also three cases of *S. panama* contracted from babies and mothers sent to the Lydney Hospital from the Gloucester Maternity Hospital during an outbreak of this infection there.

Infectious Diseases—table of corrected notifications

Rural Districts	East Dean	Lydney	Newent	West Dean	Total
Scarlet Fever	30	13	—	23	66
Whooping Cough	8	2	15	1	26
Measles	255	65	102	120	542

Other Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Two cases of erysipelas and two of puerperal pyrexia were notified. Eight cases of acute pneumonia were notified ; there must have been many more cases, but this is a disease the notification of which general practitioners have never taken seriously.

There were no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis, or of any other notifiable infectious disease.

Influenza : There was no epidemic, and the new claims to sickness benefit rose very little during the first quarter of the year, but the death of one person was ascribed to this disease.

Other Children's Infections as shown by the Weekly School Returns

Rubella (German measles) : This was very widespread throughout the Area from February to July.

Mumps : This was epidemic amongst schoolchildren in February at Hewelsfield, Newent, Yorkley, Churcham, in May at Woolaston, in July at Ruardean Woodside and in October and November at Drybrook.

Chickenpox : This was epidemic at Beachley in February and March, Lydney in June and July and Aylburton in October and November. There were also cases at Broadwell in January, Joys Green in May and Littledean in June.

Tuberculosis

Eleven notifications were received during the year, nine of these being of pulmonary disease and two non-pulmonary. Of the two females one was a young woman and the other middle aged. Of the male pulmonary cases one was a young man and the other six were over 55. One man and one woman were certified as having died from pulmonary tuberculosis and one woman from non-pulmonary.

The Mass Radiography Unit continued to visit the three Forest Towns at fortnightly intervals. These visits were especially to deal with cases referred by general practitioners. Four hundred and twenty-nine persons were examined at Cinderford, 427 at Coleford and 515 at Lydney. Fifteen abnormalities were detected but no case of active pulmonary tuberculosis was found.

I did annual tests for tuberculous infection (Heaf tests) on children attending some of the Primary Schools in the East Dean Rural District and the two Schools at Lydbrook. Only two cases of conversion from negative to positive showing infection during the year were found. One child had been in contact with a known case, but in the other case no source of infection was found.

The reduction in incidence of this disease is largely due to the prompt and effective treatment that the new drugs afford. Apart from this at least fifty per cent of people now reaching adult age have been protected by B.C.G. vaccination, which is offered by the School Medical Service during the child's thirteenth year.

Notifications during the year :—

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean	2	—	1	—	3
Lydney	1	—	1	—	2
Newent	—	—	—	—	—
West Dean	4	2	—	—	6
TOTALS	7	2	2	—	11

Cases on Registers at the end of the year :—

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean	73	42	5	11	131
Lydney	32	17	2	4	55
Newent	12	3	1	1	17
West Dean	71	23	11	7	112
TOTALS	188	85	19	23	315

GENERAL ITEMS

Water Supplies

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board supplies water to the whole of the Area except the Parish of Tidenham which is supplied by the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board, and certain properties at Bromsberrow, Dymock and Redmarley, which receive a compensatory supply from the Malvern Urban District Council.

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board did routine sampling of the sources and water as supplied, throughout the year. These samples were examined by the Board's Chemist. Copies of reports were sent to me ; these totalled 610 bacteriological examinations and 169 chemical analyses.

It was clear that a very close watch was kept on the character of water supplied. The chemical analyses were detailed, and I considered no independent analyses were necessary. Only a few samples for independent bacteriological examinations were taken. The bacteriological examinations done by the Board's Chemist on water from taps were almost invariably good.

With regard to the medical examination of staff in relation to enteric infections, it was not possible to reach understanding with the Board's Engineer. The Board employed no medical officer.

Common Lodging Houses

There are none in any of my Districts.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

No legal action was taken to remove a person, living in insanitary conditions, against his or her will, to a hospital or welfare home. A few old people were kept under surveillance.

Lead Poisoning due to the burning of Battery Casings

A letter was received from the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in July, pointing out that the practice of persons taking discarded battery cases from a tip for use as fuel, had resulted in two children dying of lead poisoning, five other children and two adults having been made ill, and some ninety children showing signs of lead absorption.

An investigation showed that the garages sold old batteries to itinerant scrap merchants whose names they often did not know. The scrap dealers in the Area disposed of them to metallurgical firms. In no cases were batteries accepted for refuse collection, and only in one case were the batteries broken up, and here the cases were buried.

Lead in Drinking Water

A letter was received in November from the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, pointing out that investigations had shown lead poisoning to have arisen in consumers of small sources of private water supply, and more especially that appreciable quantities of lead had been found in several county boroughs where the water would not have been suspected of being plumbo-solvent (lead dissolving).

The Chemist of the North West Gloucestershire Water Board and the Chemists of other Water Boards, were investigating the plumbo-solvency of their supplies. I pointed out to the Board's Chemist that high amounts of lead had been found in 1954, in the water first drawn off in the mornings, in some new houses in the East Dean Rural District with copper plumbing, and he promised to investigate this afresh.

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action during 1967.

Housing Act, 1957	East Dean R.D.	Lydney R.D.	Newent R.D.	West Dean R.D.
PART II				
1. Sections 16/17 :—				
(i) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	9	1	5	31
(ii) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that :				
(a) the houses would not be used for human habitation until made fit ...	1	4	2	2
(b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	7	—	5	1
(iii) Houses in respect of which closing orders were made in lieu of demolition orders ...	6	2	4	11
(iv) Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	2	—	—	—
2. Section 18 :—				
Closing orders on parts of dwellings	—	1	—	—
3. Section 24 :—				
Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit	2	—	—	1
4. Section 27 :—				
Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit	4	1	1	2
5. Section 28 :—				
Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted	5	—	—	1
6. Part III				
Clearance and Redevelopment	—	—	—	—
7. Part IV				
Abatement of Overcrowding	—	—	4	—

Estimates of Population

The estimates for the Parishes that I have given are the Census figures of 1961, with the variation of the Registrar General's estimates for mid-1967, from the Census figures of the Rural Districts of 1961, being apportioned according to the variation of the number of names on the electoral lists of each Parish from those of 1961. They are for mid-1967.

Anthrax Order, 1938

Only one notification of an animal having been found to be infected with this disease was received ; this was in the Newent Rural District, in April.

Domestic Facilities as shown by the Sample Census 1966

Rural District	Number of Households	Percentage without			Percentage with exclusive use of hot water, fixed bath and inside water closet.
		Hot water tap	Fixed Bath	Water Closet	
East Dean ...	6,560	22.4	25.3	9.0	65.1
Lydney ...	4,180	14.4	13.4	5.0	76.1
Newent ...	2,870	22.3	22.0	18.5	68.6
West Dean ...	5,530	25.3	19.7	11.2	66.2

Berkeley and Oldbury Nuclear Power Stations

The Environmental Monitoring of the area around the Stations continued to be carried out for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and copies of the reports were received. These showed :

1. The gamma radiation dose rates since 1963 have remained constant, those at a half-mile radius from Berkeley Station being a little raised. The readings at a half-mile radius were taken around the Oldbury Station during the last half of the year only. These were not raised above those of the surroundings. The fuel loading at Oldbury Station commenced in No. 1 Reactor in July, and power raising was started in September, reading 20 per cent of full power by October. Full loading in No. 2 Reactor commenced in October, and power raising started at the end of the year.

2. The Strontium 90 content of milk continued to decrease. This Radionuclide had increased in the atmosphere and later in milk following nuclear weapon tests of 1960 and 1961. The levels for the third quarter of 1967 approached those for 1961 before the effect of these tests in this way became noticeable.

3. The gamma radiation of silt remained constant as for 1966, at 7.0 microroentgens per hour.

4. The beta activity in fish for 1967 was a little lower than that of 1966.

5. Discharges of Liquid Radioactive Waste to the River Severn during the calendar year were :

Berkeley Station : 311.3 curies tritium were discharged to the 1,500 curies permitted.

69.62 curies of gross beta plus alpha (excluding tritium) were discharged to the 200 curies permitted.

Oldbury Station : 3.7 curies tritium to the 2,000 curies permitted and 0.016 curies of gross beta plus alpha to the 100 curies permitted.

Two meetings of the Liaison Committee were held at which the operation of the Stations was explained.

Brucellosis

The sampling of milk continued to be done by sampling officers of the County Health Department for infection with brucella abortus. Four hundred and forty-one such " ring " tests were done, of which eleven were positive, and eight doubtful. Whereas the County Public Health Officer appears to decide, from the letters sent to farmers on behalf of the County Council, that legal action would not be taken under Section 31 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, if the milk from an affected cow is heat treated, it still remains for the District Medical Officer of Health to decide whether a notice under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959, should be served, requiring the milk from the whole herd to be heat-treated. During the latter part of the year sampling at farms had to be suspended because of the Foot and Mouth disease epidemic.

Public Health Laboratories

The Newport Laboratory continues to be the one normally used. The Director, Dr R. D. Gray, and his staff have given excellent service over a number of years.

The Public Health Laboratory at Gloucester, under Dr A. E. Wright, is used for the eastern part of my Area.

Analyst

The University of Bristol Analyst, who is the County Analyst, is the one normally used.

EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : W. MORRIS

Vice-Chairman : M. BRAIN

Members (from May, 1967) : Councillors, F. C. Beard, G. J. Beard, H. J. Beddington, R. J. Bevan, H. C. Byett, R. E. Cadle, E. Cooke, T. C. L. Davidson, R. A. Hawkins, K. W. W. Jones, G. B. Keyse, M. V. Lark, A. A. Legg, K. L. Perkins, H. S. Phillips, D. R. J. Pritchard, G. A. Smith, J. N. Taylor, T. E. Taylor, T. A. Trigg, L. J. Tuffley, L. S. Wilce, W. Wilkins, W. Wooding and S. H. Yeatman.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health Inspector : A. D. PARSONS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector : R. L. PUGH, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector : M. A. KENT, DIP. P.H.I.E.B.
(resigned 30/6/67)

Statistics

Population=21,080 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1967).

Area=30,078 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=7,081.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1967, was £440,834.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1967, was £1,776 5s. 5d.

Number of Live Births=374. Number of Deaths=228.

Excess of Births over Deaths=146.

Birth Rate=17.7 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.04, this gives an adjusted rate of 18.4. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.07.

Death Rate=10.8 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.06 this gives an adjusted rate of 11.5. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.02.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	176	171	347	12	15	27	188	186	374
Still Births	3	3	6	—	—	—	3	3	6
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	3	—	3	1	2	3	4	2	6
1-4 weeks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 wks.-1 yr.	3	1	4	—	—	—	3	1	4

Population, Number of Houses and Caravans and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings		Properties connected to Mains Water Supply
		Houses	Caravans	
Awre	1,792	563	—	543
Blaisdon	349	86	—	71
Churcham	753	238	2	167
Cinderford	6,970	2,357	42	2,337
Drybrook	2,825	962	5	956
Huntley	500	178	—	134
Littledean	1,373	439	3	433
Longhope	1,085	377	21	319
Mitcheldean	1,948	654	3	619
Ruardean	1,262	436	13	443
Ruspidge	2,223	670	32	647
TOTALS	21,080	6,960	121	6,669

Mr F. E. Huband, the Rating Officer, provided this table except for the population estimates.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR’S REPORT

Mr A. D. Parsons reports as follows :—

The amount of work done by the Department increased again during the year. There were 1,381 entries in the Complaints Register.

Mr M. A. Kent, the second Additional Public Health Inspector, resigned at the end of June. Unfortunately the vacancy could not be filled, and important work was left uncompleted and a further burden was once again thrown on the remaining staff.

However, at the beginning of October Mr P. Dimmock joined the Staff of the Department to assist with the office work, and later to become a trainee Public Health Inspector.

At the beginning of October, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal became the responsibility of the Health Department, and Mr J. A. N. Butterworth also became one of the Staff.

Housing

Considerable time was spent on surveys and the inspection of properties which had become vacant as a result of the allocation of Council houses in Cinderford, Blakeney and Mitcheldean.

Thirty-five representations under Part II of the Housing Act, 1957 were made, resulting from routine inspection of properties, nineteen families having been rehoused by the Council. Consequently, more time was spent in meeting owners and prospective purchasers in order to discuss repairs, renovations and improvements in checking plans and specifications, and upon the subsequent inspections and reports.

It was necessary to take legal action for the eviction of the occupiers of one property which was occupied in contravention of a Demolition Order.

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957

Part II

I. Sections 16/17

(i)	Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(ii)	Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that:							
(a)	the houses would not be used for human habitation until made fit	...	...	...	...			1
(b)	the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	...	...	...	...			7
(iii)	Houses in respect of which closing orders were made <i>in lieu</i> of demolition orders	...	...	...	...			6
(iv)	Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	...	...	...	...	...		2
2.	Section 18							
	Closing orders on parts of buildings	...	...	...	...			nil
3.	Section 24							
	Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
4.	Section 27							
	Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit							4
5.	Section 28							
	Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted							5
6.	Part III							
	Clearance and Re-development	...	...	...	...			nil
7.	Part VI							
	Abatement of Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...		nil

Rent Act, 1957

Two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and were granted.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Planning Consents granted during the year by the County Planning Authority for individual caravans (temporary)	...	12
Applications refused	...	4
		—
Total	...	16
		—

Sites licensed							<i>Number of caravans</i>
Woodview Orchard, Ruspidge							35
Wyelands, Ruardean							12
Rocklands, Longhope							16
Valley Road, Cinderford... ..							69
Queen's Farm, Churcham							2
Sites for individual caravans							99
							<hr/>
Total							233
							<hr/>

An amended licence to increase the number of caravans by five, was granted in respect of the Woodview Orchard Caravan Site.

Water Supply

As the North West Gloucestershire Water Board intended to use the water from one of the old disused mines in the District and were carrying out trial operations, a survey of wells that were being used for water supply and might be affected was made, and possible sources of contamination from drainage, old disused pitshafts and scowle holes were investigated.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Dairies	11
Distributors	19
Distributors with premises outside the District	5

Ice-cream

Premises registered for the Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

For the manufacture and sale (cold mix method only was used)	1
For the storage and sale of (pre-packed) ice-cream	131
<hr/>	
Total	132
<hr/>	

Number of ice-cream samples taken during year	48
Methylene Blue Grading	
One	41
Two	2
Three	5

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Appropriate action was being taken with a butcher's shop, otherwise informal action by letter was taken with shops which did not comply with the regulations.

Licensed Premises

No routine inspections were carried out during the year.

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

No routine enforcement of the Regulations was carried out.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Seven slaughtermen were licensed to slaughter animals for food.

Slaughterhouse

There is only one slaughterhouse in the District and this is in Valley Road, Cinderford, and is privately owned.

Meat Condemned at Slaughterhouse

Carcase meat	...	...	...	2,860 lbs
Bovine, sheep and pig livers	...	...	...	2,468 „
Lights	...	...	...	340 „
Bovine heads	...	...	...	32 „

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouse

The amount of work has increased over the preceding years, the increase being 19.4 per cent on last year. Sunday slaughtering was usual throughout the year, necessitating two visits each Sunday, for inspection.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	2,518	20	180	12,397	4,719	—
Number inspected ...	2,518	20	180	12,397	4,719	—
All disease except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	1	16	7	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	283	1	—	316	145	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	11.2	10.0	0.6	2.7	3.2	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	13	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	0.3	—

Cysticercosis: No carcase or part of a carcase was found to be infested.

Food and Drugs Act 1955

Whenever a shopkeeper suspects that food is unfit, the Department is notified and a certificate of unfitness for human consumption is issued where necessary.

Food Condemned (other than at Slaughterhouse)

Fresh meat	...	...	...	9 lbs.
Dried fruit	...	...	...	7 „
Sliced beetroot	...	...	...	24 jars
Meat paste	...	...	...	2 „
Lemon curd...	...	...	...	1 „
Honey	...	...	...	1 „
Dried apple	...	...	...	15 packets
Chipples	...	...	...	15 „
Cauliflowers	...	...	...	40 boxes
Fruit	...	...	...	352 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	142 „
Meat (various)	...	...	...	92 „
Milk	...	...	...	34 „
Fish	...	...	...	24 „
Minced steak	...	...	...	18 „
Rice pudding	...	...	...	15 „
Macaroni cheese	...	...	...	13 „
Irish stew	...	...	...	12 „
Sausages	...	...	...	12 „
Soup	...	...	...	4 „
Stewed steak	...	...	...	3 „
Grape fruit juice	...	...	...	1 „

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises in the District and no dressed poultry was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in the District.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
	Agricultural	Non-Agricultural
Number of properties in District	162	7,453
Total number of properties (including nearby properties) inspected following notification	—	129
Number infested by (i) Rats	5	106
(ii) Mice	—	8
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	7	158
Number infested by (i) Rats	—	118
(ii) Mice	—	8

Factories Act, 1961

Factory premises registered at the commencement of 1967	...	...	74
Factory premises removed from register during year	...	...	nil
Factory premises added to register during year	...	...	nil
Number of premises registered at end of year	...	...	74

Part I

I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ity	71	37	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' prem- ises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	74	40	3	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”).

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2	3	—	1	—

Outworkers

There were 66 outworkers who were employed in the carding of pins and clips by a factory outside the District.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

It was unfortunate that the Inspector who was engaged partly on the enforcement of the Act, left in the middle of the year, and very little time could be given to this work by the other Inspector and myself.

The total number of visits to registered premises was 172.

Twenty Informal Notices were served where defects were found and in the majority of cases the necessary work was put in hand.

Only one accident was reported and investigated.

As requested, all the necessary forms were completed and returned to the Ministry of Labour during the year, for their records.

Listed below are the main defects found :—

Failure to provide thermometer	...	...	...	...	...	24
No provision for heating	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inadequate washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	14
Lack of artificial light in sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	6
Lack of means of drying employees outdoor clothing	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inadequate lighting of staircase	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lack of handrail to staircase	...	...	...	...	...	10
Lack of satisfactory first aid box	...	...	...	...	...	20
Failure to provide abstract of Act	...	...	...	...	...	37

Registrations and Inspections

	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total number of Registered premises at end of year	Number of Registered premises receiving an inspection during the year
Offices	2	42	14
Retail Shops	6	118	46
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	—	5	1
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	—	9	4
Fuel storage depots	—	2	1
Totals	8	176	66

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace :—

Class of workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	122
Retail Shops	443
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	24
Catering establishments open to the public	13
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	3
TOTAL	605
Total Males	246
Total Females	359

Clean Air Act, 1956

Repeated complaints were received about smells from a local factory, these were referred to the Manager, and the District Alkali Inspector was notified.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

No complaints were received regarding noise nuisance during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

The annual licence was granted to the only pet shop in the District, after it had been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Two applications were made in respect of such premises, which were inspected, and registered accordingly.

Agriculture (Safety Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1963

No action was taken during the year to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act.

Swimming Pools

There is only one swimming pool in the District and this at Abenhall Secondary Modern School ; no supervisory action was taken.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Four hundred and sixty-five Land Searches were received for identification and observation ; fifty-three properties required inspection.

Public Health Act, 1936 and 1961

Sixteen informal notices were served to abate nuisances, but no Statutory notices were necessary.

It was necessary to require the cleansing of two properties in insanitary conditions. In one case this was done by the occupier's relatives but in the other, members of the Council's Staff had to be used.

Because of the dangers associated with the disposal of car batteries, the Medical Officer of Health requested information as to the methods used. This was obtained by sending a questionnaire to all who were in some way connected with their disposal.

Drainage

Many enquiries were made in connection with drainage, and much time was spent giving advice and making inspections. Thirteen drainage tanks were installed and fifteen sewer connections were made.

Complaints were continually being received about a nuisance on the highway caused by unsatisfactory drainage of six properties at Longhope. Investigations revealed that the only satisfactory way of abating the nuisance was by the provision of a sewer.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

General : There are 15 disposal works of varying capacities in different parts of the District ; all receive as much attention and supervision as shortage of labour and technical staff permit.

Sludge Removal: This problem continues to become more serious each year, and although as much sludge as possible was disposed of on agricultural land, there were times when this was not possible. An area of land has been earmarked at Crump Meadow for the disposal of household refuse, and it is hoped that sludge from the Soudley and Crump Meadow works will be able to be deposited on this site.

Final Effluents : Ten samples of final effluents were taken from a number of works throughout the District by the Severn and Wye River Authorities. Of these, 6 were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory. Two samples taken from small works serving groups of Council houses were unsatisfactory, probably due to the fact that settlement tanks had not been desludged owing to adverse weather conditions. The other two unsatisfactory samples were from the Mitcheldean works effluent.

It was becoming increasingly apparent that very much more time, labour and money would have to be spent on the important work of regular maintenance to the sewerage system. Manholes which have been in existence for many years are badly in need of repair, and many additional manholes need to be provided to ensure more efficient inspection and quick clearance of blockages.

Crump Meadow Works : Work on this contract was sufficiently far advanced at the end of the year to hope that the works would be operational by the end of January, 1968. The load at Soudley works would then be reduced and this should enable the standard of the final effluent to be higher.

Soudley Village : All main sewers and manholes were completed and it only remained to complete the Diverter Station for the sewage to be treated at the existing Soudley works.

Extensions :

- (i) A small sewer extension to serve a number of properties at Newnham Road, Blakeney, was commenced during the year, but was not completed because the contractor ran into financial difficulties.
- (ii) An extension at the Hawthorns, Drybrook, was approved by the Council.
- (iii) A scheme was prepared which would serve a number of properties on Littledean Hill, at present served by septic tanks.
- (iv) The Consulting Engineers were also requested to investigate the possibility of sewerage Ruardean Hill and Harrow Hill.

Mitcheldean and Longhope

The treatment at the Mitcheldean works caused concern as the works are considerably overloaded. Not only have extensions to industrial premises taken place in recent years, but residential development in Mitcheldean continued at a rapid rate making extensions to, or replacement of the works urgently needed.

The Council's Consulting Engineers prepared a scheme to sewer Longhope, and it was decided to make a larger works to take also the sewage from Mitcheldean. This scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and an Inquiry was held in December.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The refuse collection service continued to be carried out by the two Contractors Messrs. A. Bayliss and C. Bell for the whole of the District with the exception of Cinderford and Ruspidge which were collected by direct labour until the end of September. From the beginning of October, the refuse collection for these two Parishes was also carried out by the Contractors. This method of refuse collection has proved most satisfactory.

Trade waste material was being collected with domestic refuse in and around Cinderford, but this burden was gradually relieved by a private salvage recovery firm collecting suitably packed waste paper and cardboard.

Four refuse disposal sites were used, at Bilson, Blakeney, Longhope and Brierley. A fire at the latter, however, made it a reserve site only. It was agreed that the Bilson Tip should be closed when a suitable alternative site could be found. With the co-operation of the Forestry Commission Officers it was hoped to find a suitable site.

Several fires at the disposal tips were promptly and very satisfactorily dealt with by my Staff but on one occasion, at night, it was necessary to seek the help of the local fire brigade.

The refuse tips were greatly improved and maintained by employing heavy mechanical power from time to time and using the Council's mechanical bucket to cover the refuse daily. Periodically it was necessary to clear the ground of trees and bushes at Longhope and at Blakeney, as more space was required for tipping.

Pests were satisfactorily dealt with as the occasion arose and one infestation of flies gave much concern until the cause was eventually traced and the trouble remedied (dead fowls had been buried on a tip).

Extra refuse collections were made where forest tracks had been made up into roads, at Jubilee Road, Mitcheldean and at Brierley Bank, Brierley, and also from the new houses at Albert Road, Cinderford and residential development at Mitcheldean. Kerbside collection is the usual method of collection, except when there are genuine requests for a doorstep collection, because of infirmity.

Strict precautions were taken to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease during the epidemic which occurred during the latter part of the year, such as the laying of sawdust with disinfectant at entrances to the tips and sewage works, and by the washing of vehicles and footwear.

Street Cleansing

The fixing, replacing and maintenance of street litter baskets and bins was carried out by temporary labour when necessary. The collection of litter from the receptacles continued to be done weekly by contract, and the removal of litter from the main street of Cinderford was carried out by temporary labour on Sunday mornings.

When dead animals were reported to be lying on the highways, they were promptly removed by employing temporary labour. The number of animals so removed was 32.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr L. A. Andrews, the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed :—

Council Houses

Parish	1967	Pre-War	Post-War including 1967	Total
Awre ...	4	—	48	48
Blaisdon ...	—	—	—	—
Churcham ...	—	—	12	12
Cinderford ...	36	80	342	422
Drybrook ...	—	6	142	148
Huntley ...	—	—	8	8
Littledean ...	—	—	95	95
Longhope ...	—	6	24	30
Mitcheldean ...	9	6	171	177
Ruardean ...	—	10	85	95
Ruspidge ...	—	26	99	125
Totals ...	49	134	1,026	1,160

Of the forty-nine dwellings completed and occupied during 1967, two at Awre were one-bedroom type bungalows which were let to tenants of pensionable age.

Private Houses

Eighty-eight private dwellings were completed during the year, making a total of 959 since 1946.

Improvement Grants

During the year applications were investigated and grants were approved by the Council as follows :—

Type of Grant	Number approved in 1967	Number completed in 1967
Standard	67	47
Discretionary	2	3

Applicants for Council Accommodation

The waiting list for Council house accommodation was as follows :—
 Blakeney 43, Churcham 5, Cinderford 217, Drybrook 100, Huntley 23, Littledean 25, Longhope 24, Mitcheldean 78, Ruardean 31, Ruspidge 67, making a total of 613.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

Sewerage

Most of the Parishes have separate sewage disposal works. Longhope still requires to be sewered and the proposal to build a new works in this Parish also to serve Mitcheldean is a good one. Soudley is now sewered. The new Crump Meadow works will be of great value. Extensions of the sewers will progressively become necessary.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

No table of premises and inspections could be obtained from the Inspector.

Staff

For the first seven months of the year there were three Public Health Inspectors ; when one left a veterinary surgeon was employed to do the meat inspection of the slaughterhouse. He had previously been employed when an additional inspector was not available to do this work.

It was most unfortunate that the management of the sewerage and sewage works were added to the Senior Public Health Inspector in October without the staff to do the Public Health Inspector's work. It will be seen that important Public Health Inspector's work was not done and this is a serious matter.

LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : A. F. G. HOPES

Vice-Chairman : G. J. BENNETT

Members (from May, 1967) : Councillors Mrs P. R. Manson, Mrs A. B. Reissner, I. J. Brown, W. A. Butt, J. H. G. Darters, E. F. Davis, M. G. Edwards, D. G. Emery, P. E. Goatman, H. Harley, A. P. L. James, R. Meredith, T. L. Richards and C. R. Smith.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Health Inspector : W. M. RICHARDS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Statistics

Population = 14,290 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1967).

Area = 24,597 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings = 4,723.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1967, was £447,288.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1967, was £1,841 8s. 0d.

Number of Live Births = 234. Number of Deaths = 137.

Excess of Births over Deaths = 97.

Birth Rate = 16.4 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.14 this gives an adjusted rate of 18.7. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.09.

Death Rate = 9.6 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.11 this gives an adjusted rate of 10.6. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 0.95.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	118	106	224	5	5	10	123	111	234
Still Births	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	3
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1-4 wks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 wks.-1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Alvington ...	438	143	123	1
Aylburton ...	866	284	257*	—
Hewelsfield ...	397	152	134	—
Lydney ...	5,765	2,187	2,164	—
St Briavels ...	1,200	429	396	—
Tidenham ...	4,758	1,233	1,210	—
Woolaston ...	866	295	266	2
TOTALS ...	14,290	4,723	4,550	3

* This includes 86 dwellings connected to the Aylburton Village Supply.

The figures for the number of dwellings and the connections to the Mains Water Supply were given by D. S. Bennett, A.R.V.A., the Rating Officer.

The estimated population for Tidenham includes 782 staff and apprentices at the Army Apprentices' School at Beachley.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr W. M. Richards reports as follows :—

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action taken during 1967
Part II

- I. Sections 16/17
- (i) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made

I
- (ii) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that :

(a) the houses would not be used for human habitation until made fit

4

(b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority

nil
- (iii) Houses in respect of which closing orders were made *in lieu* of demolition orders

2
- (iv) Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit

nil
2. Section 18
- Closing Orders on parts of buildings

I
3. Section 24
- Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit

nil
4. Section 27
- Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit

I
5. Section 28
- Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted ...

nil

6.	Part III					
	Clearance and Re-development	...	...	...	...	nil
7.	Part IV					
	Abatement of Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	nil
	Unfit houses made fit after formal action by the Council	...				4

Clearance Areas : The eight houses included in the Post Office Row Clearance Order, 1956, have all now been demolished.

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the above Act were received.

Slum Clearance

During period 1934 - 39, five Clearance Orders were made and confirmed, three in the Parish of Lydney, and one in each of the Parishes of Woolaston and Tidenham.

Twenty-two houses in six areas were not dealt with as Clearance Areas, but as individual unfit houses.

It was an unwritten policy of the Council in those days to defer action on certain properties until an aged owner/occupier had vacated the dwelling, because it was assumed that to condemn an old couple's dwelling which had been their home, for perhaps 40 years, and to rehouse them against their will in other accommodation, would cause severe emotional hardship. Not all the individual houses dealt with were demolished. Undertakings were accepted in good faith that the properties would not be let for human habitation and the lists of works would be submitted to the Council for consideration. The outbreak of War prevented this. Houses in one Clearance Area (Swan Row) which had not been demolished did serve a useful purpose, becoming a refuge for families from bombed areas.

After the War, two Clearance Areas were declared and confirmed in the Parish of Tidenham. The Clearance Area at Grahamstown Road, Sedbury comprising of thirty-four huts was, unfortunately, not pursued.

Eight individual unfit houses at Swan Road, Lydney were demolished. Forty-eight huts at Naas Camp, Lydney helped to solve for several years part of the housing problem which faced the Council immediately after the War.

Twenty-seven houses of low category were demolished by owners, without formal action being taken.

Fifteen houses which would have been included in a future Slum Clearance Programme were purchased and reconditioned by the Council.

In May, 1965 a list of 77 houses was submitted to the Council for future consideration. Thirty of these have been dealt with, and action has been taken in respect of an additional 15 properties.

Action has been taken on 283 houses, more remains to be done, and in my opinion where individual houses cannot be reconditioned, they should be demolished.

It is regrettable that in some cases where an owner wishes to demolish an unfit dwelling and replace it with a new building, the Planning Authority will not issue the necessary consent.

Table A

Number of Houses dealt with under the Housing Acts during period 1934 - 1939

Parish	Clearance Areas	Total number of houses in Clearance Areas	Number of Individual Unfit Houses	Total Number	Number Demolished	Number Repaired	Number not Demolished (Derelict)
Alvington ...	—	—	3	3	—	2	1
Aylburton ...	—	—	11	11	9	2	—
Hewelsfield ...	—	—	5	5	—	2	3
Lydney ...	3	26	32	58	42	11	5
St. Briavels ...	—	—	7	7	—	2	5
Tidenham ...	1	11	19	30	23	6	1
Woolaston ...	1	4	9	13	3	5	5
Total ...	5	41	86	127	77	30	20

Table B

Number of Houses dealt with under the Housing Acts during period 1945 - December 1967

Parish	Clearance Areas	Number of houses in Clearance Areas	Number of Individual Unfit Houses	Parts of Dwellings	Number Demolished	Number Repaired	List of works accepted but not completed	Unfit Houses		Total
								Occupied	Vacant	
Alvington ...	—	—	9	—	—	5	2	1	1	9
Aylburton ...	—	—	9	1	1	3	1	—	5	10
Hewelsfield	—	—	13	—	1	3	3	—	6	13
Lydney ...	—	—	45	4	15	6	2	1	25	49
St. Briavels...	—	—	27	—	5	9	5	1	7	27
Tidenham ...	2	13	17	—	18	2	1	—	9	30
Woolaston ...	—	—	18	—	3	6	—	—	9	18
Total ...	2	13	138	5	43	34	14	3	62	156

In addition to the above 4 houses at Swan Row, Alvington were demolished.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Applications for Licences	Sites for Individual Caravans	Permanent Residential Sites	Holiday Caravan Sites
Received during 1967 for the first time	4	—	—
Received during 1967 for the renewal of licences	5	—	—
In respect of which a decision was not made during 1966	3	—	—
	12	—	—
Granted during 1967	5	—	—
Refused during 1967	4	—	—
In respect of which a decision was not made during 1967	1	—	—
Which fell within the First Schedule of the Act (no site licence necessary) ...	2	—	—
	12	—	—

Number of Sites (in respect of which licences have been granted) in Parishes :—

	<i>Sites for Individual Caravans</i>	<i>Permanent Residential Sites</i>	<i>Holiday Caravan Sites</i>
Alvington	3	—	—
Aylburton	2	—	—
Hewelsfield	5	—	—
Lydney	6	—	—
St. Briavels	5	—	—
Tidenham	5	1	1
		(50 caravans)	(3 caravans)
Woolaston	1	—	—
	—	—	—
	27	1	1
	—	—	—

Water Samples

Sixty-seven samples taken from various sources were submitted for bacteriological examination and free chlorine estimations to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

					<i>Bacterio- logical Examination</i>	<i>Free Chlorine Estimations</i>
Samples taken from taps on mains supplies :						
North West Gloucestershire Water Board	...	...	...	...	28	3
Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board	...	...	...	...	3	1
Aylburton Village supply	...	...	...	...	7	—
					—	—
					38	4
					—	—
Other sources :						
Bathurst Swimming Pool	...	...	...	...	10	5
Private water supplies at farms	...	...	...	...	7	—
Private water supplies	...	...	...	...	1	—
North West Gloucestershire Water Board (supplied in container)	...	...	...	...	1	—
Streams	...	...	...	...	1	—

Salmonella Infection at Lydney Hospital

Because of an outbreak of Salmonella infection at the Gloucester Maternity Hospital, four mothers and babies were sent to the Lydney Hospital. Two members of the staff and one mother became infected and the maternity wing at Lydney Hospital was then closed. Fifty-five specimens of faeces of patients and contacts were sent to the Public Health Laboratories. The organism proved to be Salmonella panama.

Milk

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Dairies not at farms	...	...	...	1
Distributors	...	...	...	37
Distributors with premises outside the District	...	...	...	6

Sedbury Dairies Limited :

Number of producers : 52

Average daily through-put of milk : 3,500 gallons

Bottle (daily average) : 27,500

Ice-Cream

Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 16 :

Three premises were Registered during the year.

For manufacture (cold mix method used) 2

For storage and sale (pre-packed) 65

Visits were made but no action was found to be necessary in respect of the handling of ice-cream or of the condition of the premises.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Category of Premises	Number	Number complying with Regulation 16	Number complying with Regulation 19
Grocery	29	22	29
Confectioners	7	5	7
Butchers	13	8	12
Fruiterers	5	3	4
Fried Fish Shops	2	1	2
Cafes	2	2	2
School Canteens	13	13	13
Factory Canteens	5	5	5

Number of inspections of Food Premises :

(a)	Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	60
(b)	Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	27
(c)	Grocer's Shops	...	...	...	35
(d)	Catering Establishments	...	...	...	7
(e)	Other Food Premises, including Mobile Shops, School and Factory Canteens	...	...	...	12

Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

Slaughtering is carried out between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday in each week, and it has been possible to maintain 100 per cent inspection of all animals slaughtered.

Slaughtering was only carried out at the one licensed slaughterhouse.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	50	—	4	504	22	—
Number inspected ...	50	—	4	504	22	—
All disease except tuberculosis and cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	—	—	13	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	10	—	—	2.5	4.5	—

Cysticercosis : No animal slaughtered was found to be affected.

Tuberculosis : Again I am pleased to report that no carcase, part of a carcase or organ of the animals slaughtered during the year was affected by tuberculosis.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

The Council in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, issued the following licences during the year :

To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs	...	6
To slaughter and stun pigs only	... ..	8
To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs under supervision	... ..	1

Amount of Meat and Other Foods condemned as unfit for human consumption :

5 Bovine livers	...	64 lbs.
12 Sheep livers	...	20 „
Leg of lamb	...	8 „
1 Pig's pluck	...	5 „
1 Pig carcase	...	93 „
4 - 6 lb. tins of corned beef		
1 - 12 oz. tin of corned beef		
2 - 12 oz. tins of tomatoes		
2 - 8 oz. tins luncheon meat		
2 - 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. tins pork luncheon meat		
4 - 1 lb. tin peas		
8 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tins peaches		
3 - 1 lb. tin apple dumpling		
Cod fillet	... ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ stone
Herring	... ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
62 lbs. parboiled pork		

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in District	4,831	187
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	74	4
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	74	4
(ii) Mice	—	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	314	14
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	86	—
(ii) Mice	5	—

During the year all Council properties, including refuse tips, sewer systems and stores were kept under regular observation and, where necessary, treatment was carried out.

Forty-two selected manholes in the sewer system were treated, 41 were found to be clear, one at Alvington required further treatment.

The Cut, Lydney, where infestation remains a problem, the responsibility for the removal of weeds, overgrowth and refuse after illicit dumping remained in doubt. I was sincerely sorry to see this watercourse in such a state, when I can recall its satisfactory appearance and maintenance prior to the War.

Treatment carried out on waste land at Sedbury will not be successful until the overgrowth and refuse is removed.

Close co-operation was maintained between the Council's Contractors Ratsouris Limited and myself.

I should like to thank Mr H. F. Lewis, Field Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food for his advice and ready assistance in all matters relating to infestations in the District.

A number of " Cluster Fly " and other insect infestations in dwelling houses were treated. Bats in the roof of two Council houses were dealt with.

Fairground

Visits were made to the annual fair at Lydney, and it was found that water supply and sanitary accommodation were adequately provided.

Public Health Act, 1936

Complaints : Forty-nine complaints were received under the above Act, twenty-one of these were in respect of defective drainage systems. Other complaints received included :—

- (a) Surcharge of the sewer at Hams Road and Station Road, Lydney.
- (b) Flooding of properties at Brockweir.
- (c) Discharge of oil into the Cut, Lydney.
- (d) Defective drainage on housing estate at Tutshill.

Lydney Shipping

Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year 1967 :—

Coastwise	Number (Motors) (Sailing)	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied
—	561	23,788	—	—

Traffic Summary, 1967

Year	Vessels Inwards	Vessels Outwards	Timber Imported	Coal Exported	Other Cargoes
1966	622	617	37,821 tons	—	—
1967	561	553	29,426 tons	—	—
Increase Decrease	— 61	— 64	— 8,395 tons	— —	— —

Factories Act, 1961

Part I

I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authori- ties 	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ority 	46	26	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' prem- ises) 	13	9	—	—
TOTAL	61	37	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Con- veniences (S.7) ...					
(a) Insufficient	I	—	—	I	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences re- lating to Out- work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	I	—	—	I	—

Register of Factories : Changes during the year : added 2 : deleted 2.

Outworkers

Whitcroft (Lydney) Ltd., Lydney, Glos.: 3.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Forty-five licences were issued by the Council for the storage of Petroleum Spirit :—

Number on the Register at the end of 1966	...	...	46
Number of Licences granted by the Council	...	...	1
Number of Licences not renewed	...	...	2
Number of transfers	...	...	4
Summary : Filling Stations	...	...	18
Farms	...	...	8
Factories	...	...	9
Quarries	...	...	2
Business Premises	...	8	Total 45

The storage of Petroleum Spirit at one premises was discontinued; the installation comprises an underground tank and manually operated pump, which was prepared by Pump Maintenance Limited for storage of Diesel Fuel. Underground tanks at two premises were not removed, and were freed of spirit and sludge, steamed and filled with sand.

Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929

One premises was licensed for the keeping of Carbide of Calcium.

Lead Poisoning due to the Burning of Battery Casings

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health I made a survey of the methods of disposal of old car batteries in the District. All were collected by scrap merchants intact, the garage not usually knowing the name of the merchant.

Refuse collectors did not accept batteries for disposal on the refuse tip.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1963

Seasonal casual gangs are employed on a few farms for blackcurrant and potato harvesting and temporary sanitary accommodation was provided.

Clean Air

From observations taken at intervals over a period it was found that the emission of dark smoke from chimneys at three factories continued to constitute a nuisance.

The management at two of these premises realized that it could not be prevented with the existing equipment, but unfortunately no positive action was taken by them to abate the nuisance. The installation of a destructor and steam boiler at the other factory has not been completely successful. Action was being taken by the Council in this matter.

Complaints were also received in respect to the nuisance from smoke and dust caused by the burning of sawdust at a factory in Sedbury.

No advantage was taken of the Council's offer to allow the deposit of one load of sawdust per week on the refuse tip at Lydney, and for a time, owing to the precautions which had to be taken during the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, farmers ceased to remove any sawdust from the site, with the result that arrangements were made by the management for its removal for burning outside the District.

This is, in my opinion, a case of a factory being allowed to be built too near to dwelling houses, and without consideration having been given to the disposal of waste.

The emission of fumes from the chimney of a factory at Tutnalls caused by a defect in the extractor plant was remedied.

The Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations, 1966

There are no market premises in the District.

Vehicles selling open and wrapped food, have washing facilities. There are a number of bread vans and delivery vehicles used solely for delivering food and these are not affected by the Regulations.

Facilities for washing food and equipment does not apply to two vehicles from which is carried on food businesses consisting wholly of that of greengrocer and fruiterer. Washing facilities are available at premises from which they operate.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Two hundred and forty Land Searches were passed through the Public Health Department for observation, a number of which required identification and inspection.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

One premises is registered under the above Act.

One application was refused.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing establishments in the District.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no premises in the District.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

No licences were issued under the above Act.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

One complaint was received as to an alleged nuisance from the barking of dogs. The Council were of the opinion that there were no grounds upon which they could take action, either under the Public Health Acts or the Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

Game Act, 1831

One Game Dealers' Licence was granted under the above Act.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Two licences authorising the keeping of boarding establishments for animals were granted. Periodical visits were made but no action was found to be necessary in respect of the maintenance and condition of the premises.

One application for a licence was refused.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Twelve premises were registered during the year. Eight shops were voluntarily closed by owners for alterations and improvements.

As the result of a survey carried out, the following are my observations with regard to the requirements of the Act :

- Temperature :* In rooms in which the bulk of work carried on is of a sedentary nature, a reasonable temperature was maintained. In certain types of office premises to which the public has access, such as betting offices, efforts are being made to provide a stove or radiator to enable employees to warm themselves. Exemption does apply to certain shops, such as wet fish shops and butcher's shops.
- Heating :* In the majority of cases the solid fuel open fire for direct heating is obsolete.
In most premises to which the Act applies, continuous heating is unnecessary, as the required temperature needs to be maintained for daily periods rarely exceeding ten to twelve hours. Requirements are being met with the use of gas and electricity.
- Ventilation :* There are no open fronted shops in the District.
The popularity of the open fire is declining, and natural ventilation is more often achieved by air inlets at floor level and outlets near the ceiling. In older shops and offices ventilation is provided by the the use of windows.
- Lighting :* The majority of premises are adequately lighted. No matter how excellent the arrangements may be for natural lighting during the hours of daylight, natural light availability is unreliable and is dependent upon weather conditions and the season.
- Sanitary Conveniences :* At premises where more than five persons are employed, separate sanitary conveniences and washing facilities are sufficient and conveniently accessible. Where three to five are employed, one sanitary convenience only is provided.
- Water-Supply :* In offices and shops, mains water is supplied for drinking purposes, and no anxiety need be felt in such cases as to wholesomeness or potability.
- Eating Facilities :* In the majority of premises, employees rarely partake of a meal at the actual place of work.
- Accommodation for Clothing :* Provision of clothing accommodation has its problems, and regard must be had to the needs of both employee and employer in this connection and the arrangements should be satisfactory to both.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

H. I. Spratt, C.ENG., M.I.MUN.E., A.M.T.P.I., M.R.S.H., reports as follows :—

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The number of properties connected to the sewer during 1967 was 334 and of this total, 240 were in the Parish of Tidenham as a result of the practical completion of the Tidenham Sewerage Scheme. Work on connections to the new sewer will continue in 1968.

Wirewoods Green Estate is now directly connected to the new public sewer, although use of some of the septic tanks has not entirely been discontinued.

The Consulting Engineers are still investigating the cause of infiltration into the sewers at Alvington and Woolaston, which continues to be troublesome.

The draft scheme for the improvement of the sewerage of Lydney Town was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, an investigation was held, and the Ministry's decision was awaited.

A meeting was also held with representatives of West Dean Rural District Council, and the respective Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a joint report for the drainage of the Southern part of the West Dean area in conjunction with the Town of Lydney.

Refuse Collection

The weekly refuse collection has now been extended to almost the whole of the District.

Pilot schemes for the collection of refuse using paper sacks have been instituted on some Council housing estates, but these have not been in operation long enough to enable further consideration to be given to extending the schemes.

Insecticide spraying of East Marsh tip was again carried out during the year and very few complaints were received.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr H. I. Spratt, reports as follows :—

Forty Council houses were completed during the year, and the number of houses erected by the Authority by the end of 1967 is as follows :—

Parish	1967	Pre-War and up to 1946	Post-War	Total
Alvington ...	—	14	19	33
Aylburton ...	—	8	40	48
Hewelsfield ...	—	6	6	12
Lydney ...	40	259	360	619
St Briavels ...	—	8	26	34
Tidenham ...	—	50	176	226
Woolaston ...	—	12	45	57
TOTAL ...	40	357	672	1,029

One Council house was sold to a sitting tenant during the year ; this made a total of 39 houses which have been sold to tenants.

In addition to the above, the Council own twelve cottages at Lydney and six at Tutshill.

During the year a further 16 old houses were purchased, and modernisation schemes for them will be prepared in the coming year.

Schemes of improvement and modernisation of the Councils' older properties are in progress, the current ones dealing with approximately one hundred dwellings in the Lydney area.

Private Dwellings completed during the year

Eighty-two private dwellings were built during the year bringing the number built since the war to 1,031.

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
Alvington	—	2	—
Aylburton	2	3	—
Hewelsfield	—	—	—
Lydney	31	18	6
St Briavels	1	5	—
Tidenham	4	8	—
Woolaston	2	—	—
Total	40	36	6

Improvement Grants

During the year forty-three Standard Grants were approved ; no applications were received for Discretionary Grants. The difference between Discretionary and Standard Grants is so small that the extra requirements for the former do not appear to make these worth applying for.

Applicants for Council Accommodation

There were 312 applicants for Council houses at the end of the year

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

Mains Water Supplies

The Public Health Inspector took 22 samples from taps on the North West Gloucestershire Water Board's supply. Two of these from a cafe showed contamination and this was ascribed to a polluted tap. The others were free from contamination. Two samples were taken from taps on the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board's supply in the Tidenham Parish. These were free from contamination.

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board found the water supply from taps at a Caravan Site and adjacent farm was contaminated, although these properties were supposed to be connected to the mains. It was found that the water was in fact a spring (really drainage from a pond) being topped up by the mains when necessary.

Aylburton Village Supply

Seven samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and two of these were free from contamination ; the others showed contamination.

Private Supplies

Five small private supplies were investigated. Fifteen samples were taken and all showed contamination.

Bathurst Swimming Pool

Five sets of samples were taken during the season, one each from the shallow and one from the deep end. Those taken at the end of August showed contamination ; the filtration and chlorination apparatus was out of order and not working. The water quickly showed turbidity. The faults were remedied and the water was free, like the earlier samples, from contamination. I recommended that mains water be used instead of water from the polluted Park Brook.

Sewerage

A scheme to construct a works to treat the sewage from Lydney and Aylburton, together with industrial waste and to lay new sewers was prepared and an Inquiry was held.

There are sewage works at St. Briavels, Alvington and Tidenham. Extensions will become imperative, particularly at Lydney and at Woodcroft. Brockweir should be sewerred.

NEWENT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : R. S. CHEW

Vice-Chairman : P. PRICE

Members (from May, 1967) : Councillors Mrs A. E. Potts, S. J. Ayland, J. M. Brooks, W. J. Cummins, F. Dunn, R. P. Ovington, J. M. Smith, S. Rouse and F. A. Windsor-Clive.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer, Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector :

H. S. JENKINSON, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Pests Officer : T. A. CHETWOOD

Rodent Operator (part-time) : H. P. HYETT

Statistics

Population=9,260 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1967).

Area=41,111 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=3,196.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1967, was £184,995.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1967, was £738 5s. 4d.

Number of Live Births=147. Number of Deaths=85.

Excess of Births over Deaths=62.

Birth Rate=15.9 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.10 this gives an adjusted rate of 17.5. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.02.

Death Rate=9.2 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 0.95 this gives an adjusted rate of 8.7. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 0.78.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	75	67	142	3	2	5	78	69	147
Still Births	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2
Deaths of infants									
under 1 week	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
1-4 weeks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4wks.-1 year	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2

Population, Number of Houses, Mains Water Supply and Sewerage

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply		Properties with water closets connected to Sewer
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe	
Bromsberrow	239	69	53	—	—
Corse	471	161	139	—	38
Dymock	1,226	410	364	1	71
Hartpury	776	248	247	—	21
Kempley	252	95	74	—	—
Newent	3,542	1,251	1,143	4	787
Oxenhall	253	72	53	—	—
Pauntley	159	53	27	—	—
Redmarley	772	265	237	—	17
Rudford	253	89	69	—	—
Staunton	373	135	130	—	—
Taynton	424	163	126	—	—
Tibberton	309	105	103	—	—
Upleadon	211	80	69	—	—
Totals ...	9,260	3,196	2,834	5	934

This table includes 50 caravan sites assessed separately.

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board supplied all the properties on the mains except the following :—

Malvern Urban District Council supplies all the 53 properties served at Bromsberrow, 52 properties at Dymock and 19 at Redmarley

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows :—

Public Health Section Housing

Housing Act, 1957

PART II

Action under Sections 16/17.

(a)	(i)	Dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made	5
	(ii)	Dwellings in respect of which closing orders were made	4
	(iii)	Dwellings in respect of which undertakings were accepted that	
	(a)	the houses would not be used for human habitation until made fit	2
	(b)	that works would be done to make the properties fit	5

(b)	Closing orders determined after properties had been made fit (Section 27)	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Closing order on part of a dwelling determined	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(c)	Unfit houses in which defects were remedied or made fit by informal action	...	...	...	...	...	28
(d)	Unfit houses in temporary use	...	...	...	...	...	nil

PART IV

Overcrowding : 4 cases of overcrowding were remedied by rehousing in Council houses.

Rent Act, 1957

One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received and the certificate was granted.

Summary of Slum Clearance since 1955

Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Properties improved and Orders terminated	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Converted to Demolition Orders and demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Demolished by Owners without Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Remaining closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Undertakings accepted	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
(a) to do work	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
(i) work finished	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(ii) not yet done	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) not to use for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
(i) reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(ii) demolished...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(iii) still standing	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
(iv) used for other purposes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total number dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Total brought back into use	...	...	...	...	...	...	34

Clearance Area

Upper Church Street Clearance Area : eight houses.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

This Department is notified when shops or individuals suspect that items of food are unfit for human consumption. The following was condemned during the year :—

Frozen chickens	...	...	632 lbs.
Tinned tomatoes	...	...	35 „
Corned beef	...	...	3 „
Steak	...	...	123 „

Ice-cream

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the District. Twenty-eight premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream ; one is for soft ice-cream and the others are for pre-packed ice-cream.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of Inspections	Remarks
Cafes and Canteens	15	16	This includes school canteens.
Grocery and Provision Shops	35	33	This includes sweet shops and chemists shops.
Ice-cream Vendors	28	30	Registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
Butchers Shops ...	6	70	Two Mobile Traders from outside the District are included. Three are registered under S.16 (b) Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale).
Fishmongers ...	3	8	(This includes one Mobile van). There are two fried fish shops in Newent
Bakehouses ...	3	3	
Licensed Premises	21	21	All in good hygienic condition.
Dairies ...	3	6	Registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959.
Wholesale Premises (food manufacture)	2	4	Egg Packing and Poultry Dressing Stations.

All the above food premises comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, i.e. wash-hand basins and facilities for washing food and equipment are provided.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Table A. Registrations.

Class of Premises	Premises Registered during the year	Registered Premises at end of year	Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	11	8
Retail shops	—	24	22
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	—	—	—
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	—	3	3
Fuel storage depots	—	1	1

Table B. Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises : 82.

Table C. Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by workplace.

Class of workplace									Persons employed
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Retail shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Wholesale departments, warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Catering establishments open to the public	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Fuel storage depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Fifty-three caravan sites are licensed throughout the District for sixty caravans. There are no large caravan sites.

Slaughterhouses

Meat

There are three slaughterhouses in the District : one at Newent, one at Tibberton and one at Dymock, the last being used only occasionally. All slaughterhouses comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Eight slaughtermen are licensed in the District.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	351	—	4	1,260	425	—
Number inspected ...	351	—	4	1,260	425	—
All disease except tuberculosis and cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	1	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	39	—	—	19	33	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	11.1	—	—	1.6	8.5	—

Tuberculosis: No carcase or part or organ was found to be affected with tuberculosis.

Cysticercosis : No carcase or organ was found to be affected with this condition.

Meat condemned at slaughterhouse : 870 lbs.

Water Supply

One statutory notice to lay on a mains supply was served, and in default the work was carried out by the Council.

Factories Act, 1961

Part I

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities 	6	10	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ority 	21	18	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' prem- ises) 	8	6	—	—
TOTAL 	35	34	4	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	I	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	4	4	—	I	—

Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1963

Six visits were made and no need for action was found.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Two hundred and eighty-one Land Searches passed through the Department for observation and checking.

Poultry Inspection

There are two premises in which poultry dressing and packing is carried out ; no requests for inspection of diseased birds were received.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

There are ten producer-retailers and ten distributors registered with the Council. Three outside retailers operate within the District.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no premises in the District to which these Regulations apply.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are no pet shops in the District.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

There are three premises, one at Dymock one at Bromsberrow and one at Staunton, licensed under this Act.

Game Act, 1831

There are no premises in the District licensed under this Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During the year the following work was carried out :—

Type of Property	Inspections	Treatments
Local Authority :		
Sewage works and Refuse tips 	25	6
Dwelling houses (including Council houses) 	185	25
All other (including Business Premises) 	52	10
Total 	262	41
Agriculture 	16	3

Details of work carried out on Sewers and Refuse Tips :—

Sewers and Works	Action Taken	Result
Cleeve Lane Sewage Works 	Inspection	Clear
Cadbury's Sewage Works 	Inspection	Clear
Newent Town Sewers 	Treatments	Clear
Dymock Sewerage System 	Test Baited	Clear
Refuse Tips 	Action Taken	Result
Upleadon 	Treatments	Clear
Kempley 	Treatments	Clear
Redmarley 	Test Baited	Clear

When the Council carries out treatments at private dwellings or business premises at the request of the owner/occupier, charges are made to cover the full cost of treatment, except in the case of old age pensioners.

The Council have no arrangements to carry out disinfection by contract.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

No action was found to be necessary under this Act.

Clean Air Act, 1956

No action was found to be necessary under this Act.

Surveyor's Section

Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants for conversion or improvement of housing accommodation.

Applications approved :

Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	3
Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	6

Standard Grants for improvement of dwellings :

Applications approved	...	...	...	23
Grants paid after completion of work	...	...	...	29

Number of amenities provided : baths 25, wash-hand basins 27, hot water systems 28, water closets 28 and food stores 22.

Refuse Collection

Refuse is still collected once a week in Newent Town and fortnightly over the remainder of the District.

More than a quarter of the population enjoy a weekly collection and this will rise within a year or two, to one third.

In my opinion consideration will ultimately have to be given to providing a uniform service.

Tipping does not present any serious problem. Sites are selected well ahead of requirements and usually consist of disused marl pits, cuttings, etc. on farm land, which, after filling and covering and re-seeding, provide a useful extension of farm land. Only one complaint of nuisance from fly breeding on a tip was received, and appropriate action taken.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Apart from an increase in dry weather flow due to new housing schemes, the position at Newent and Dymock is unchanged as regards sewage disposal.

Newent Sewerage System

Newent sewers are on the combined system but post war development in general has been met by extensions of the sewer on the separate system, i.e. exclusion of surface water.

To avoid the possibility of flooding in the Town where the old sewers receive road water, a new storm water overflow was constructed.

Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining consent for this discharge from the River Authority and this was only granted for a 3½ year period in the first instance.

Bromsberrow Heath—new sewerage system

All sewer laying was completed during the year and work on the sewage disposal works was commenced. Completion is expected by June, 1968.

Tibberton—new sewerage system

A tender was accepted at the end of the year and Ministry sanction obtained for a start to be made early in 1968.

Eastern area

Further technical and administrative work was carried out in connection with the above and the inquiry or investigation was awaited.

Petroleum Storage

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Forty-nine licences for bulk storage were issued.

Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929

No licences were issued.

Street Cleansing

The County Council, as Highway Authority, is responsible for sweeping roads and the District Council for providing and emptying litter bins.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

Twelve dealers were registered at the beginning of the year and no new applications were received during the year.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows on the number of houses completed :—

Council Houses

No new dwellings were completed during the year.

Site works for a scheme of old persons dwellings with Warden and communal accommodation were completed at Church Street, Newent, and work on the construction of the 21 dwellings commenced.

Parish	1967	Pre-war	Post-war including 1967	Total
Bromsberrow ...	—	6	4	10
Corse ...	—	6	20	26
Dymock ...	—	16	50	66
Hartpury ...	—	10	11	21
Kempley ...	—	4	12	16
Newent ...	—	54	182	236
Oxenhall ...	—	—	6	6
Pauntley ...	—	—	—	—
Redmarley ...	—	8	16	24
Rudford ...	—	—	4	4
Staunton ...	—	6	6	12
Taynton ...	—	8	7	15
Tibberton ...	—	2	4	6
Upleadon ...	—	6	6	12
TOTAL ...	—	126	328	454

Improvements to Council Houses

Improvements and alterations to a total of 32 Council houses were carried out, which included 32 alterations to provide internal water closets, 20 coal bunkers, the plastering of 31 kitchens and the tiling of 16 floors in kitchens.

Applicants for Council Accommodation

There were 231 applicants for Council houses at the end of the year.

Private Houses

Forty-seven private houses were erected during the year making a total of five hundred and seventy-nine during the post war period.

WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : W. G. MORGAN

Members (from May, 1967) : Councillors Miss J. E. Davies, Mrs T. E. Beddis, G. G. J. Adams, G. G. Green, S. W. Hatton, W. J. Neale, J. Rooke-Johnston, T. J. Watkins and W. O. G. Whittington.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health Inspector : W. T. BEBB, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector : J. BUCHAN, CERT. R. SAN. ASSOC.
SCOTLAND

Assistant to the Public Health Inspector : E. T. NELMES

Statistics

Population=17,620 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1967).

Area=24,140 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=6,062.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1967, was £383,309.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1967, was £1,496.

Number of Live Births=279. Number of Deaths=238.

Excess of Births over Deaths=41.

Birth Rate=15.8 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.04 this gives an adjusted rate of 16.5. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 0.96.

Death Rate=13.5 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 0.99 this gives an adjusted rate of 13.8. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.19.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	139	120	259	13	7	20	152	127	279
Still Births	3	4	7	—	—	—	3	4	7
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1-4 weeks	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
4 wks.-1 yr.	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe*
WEST DEAN R.D				
Coleford	3,587	1,107	1,098	3
English Bicknor	443	137	136	—
Lydbrook Parish	2,374	816	793	7
Newland Parish	940	337	317	5
Staunton	195	68	66	—
WEST DEAN PARISH				
Berry Hill	1,730	566	542	—
Bream	2,288	801	776	—
Broadwell	1,517	533	524	—
Ellwood	559	187	178	—
Milkwall	820	258	256	—
Parkend	657	213	212	—
Pillowell	438	154	146	2
Viney Hill	395	131	125	—
Whitcroft	541	197	194	—
Yorkley	1,136	412	406	—
Total W.D. Parish	10,081	3,452	3,359	2
Total West Dean Rural District	17,620	5,917	5,769	17

* Includes properties with an outside tap.

Mr E. T. Nelmes supplied me with the number of dwellings and the properties connected to the mains water supply for the above table.

Caravans

Parish	Number of Caravans			
	Licensed	Exempt from Licensing	Connected to Mains Water Supply (i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
WEST DEAN R.D.				
Coleford	38	—	37	1
English Bicknor	3	—	3	—
Lydbrook Parish	7	1	3	4
Newland Parish	5	—	5	—
Staunton	1	—	—	1
WEST DEAN PARISH				
Berry Hill	15	2	14	1
Bream	5	—	4	1
Broadwell	4	3	4	—
Ellwood	8	—	8	—
Milkwall	40	1	39	1
Parkend	—	1	—	—
Pillowell	1	—	1	—
Viney Hill	9	—	5	4
Whitecroft	—	—	—	—
Yorkley	1	—	1	—
Total W.D. Parish	83	7	76	7
Total West Dean Rural District	137	8	124	13

Mr Nelmes was responsible for this table.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr W. T. Bebb reports as follows :—

Housing

Housing Act, 1957

(a) Action under Section 16/17

- (i) Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made

31
- (ii) Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were substituted after violation of undertakings

Nil
- (iii) Number of dwellings in respect of which undertakings were accepted that
- (a) the houses would cease to be used for human habitation

2
- (b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority

1

(iv)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made <i>in lieu</i> of demolition orders	11
(v)	Number of dwellings in respect of which closing orders were substituted after violation of undertakings	Nil
(vi)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	Nil
(b)	Action under Section 18.	
	Number of closing orders made on parts of dwellings	Nil
(c)	Action under Section 24.	
	Number of demolition orders revoked after properties had been made fit	1
(d)	Action under Section 27.	
	Number of closing orders determined after properties had been made fit	2
(e)	Action under Section 28.	
	Number of closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted	1
(f)	Action under Part III (Clearance and Re-Development) of the Housing Act 1957	Nil

Housing Act, 1961

(a)	Action under Section 26.	
	Number of demolition orders (made under Section 17 of the Principal Act) determined and closing orders substituted	Nil

Demolition of Condemned Properties

Twenty-nine houses were demolished during the year and many others were in various stages of demolition when the year ended.

No houses were demolished in default of action by the owners.

Housing Programme

Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts, 1936, 1957 and 1961, since the commencement of the First Slum Clearance Programme on the 3rd November, 1955 :

Dealt with

1.	Subject to demolition orders	265
2.	Subject to closing orders	102
3.	Subject to undertakings	
	(a) to repair	21
	(b) not to use	14
4.	In clearance areas	5
5.	By certificate of M.O.H. (Council owned)	8
6.	By agreement (Crown owned)	5
7.	In programme but dealt with unofficially...	39
		<hr/> 459 <hr/>

Renovated

8.	Demolition orders revoked after properties were made fit	24
9.	Closing orders determined after properties were made fit	16
10.	Undertakings cancelled after properties were made fit ...	25
11.	In programme but made fit without formal action ...	31
		<hr/>
		96
		<hr/>

Demolished

12.	Demolished since 1955 (but not necessarily condemned since that date)	276
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Still Standing

13.	Properties still standing (some condemned before 1955)	
(i)	Subject to demolition orders	131
(ii)	Subject to closing orders	72
(iii)	Subject to undertakings	
(a)	to repair	10
(b)	not to use	17
		<hr/>
		230
		<hr/>
14.	Of the 230 properties still standing the following are, for various reasons, still occupied :—	
(i)	Subject to demolition orders	28
(ii)	Subject to closing orders	8
(iii)	Subject to undertakings	
(a)	to repair	4
(b)	not to use	2
		<hr/>
		42
		<hr/>

Improvement Grants

During the year eighty-two properties were inspected following enquiries in respect of Standard Grants. With the exception of the year 1963 this is the highest number of enquiries received in this District in any one year since the introduction of the Standard Grant scheme, and it is believed that a contributing factor to this increase was the visit to this area by the Ministry's mobile exhibition on Improvements Grants.

A considerable number of enquiries were received during, and immediately following, the exhibition's visit, and it is to be hoped that a further visit will take place in the not too distant future.

Of the eighty-two properties inspected, additional repair work was requested by the Public Health Department in 72 cases.

Work on the improvement of dwellings with the aid of Standard Grants was satisfactorily completed in 50 cases during the year, again a record figure for this District.

Water Supply

Main Supply

The routine sampling of main supplies continued to be carried out by officials of the North West Gloucestershire Water Board, and the results notified to the Medical Officer of Health. Consequently, it was considered necessary to take only eighteen samples as additional checks during the course of the year from various points on the public mains and from the Lydbrook and Redbrook sources.

Water samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for bacteriological examination, whereas samples taken by the Water Board officials were examined by the Board's own Chemist at Tewkesbury.

Public Wells

At the present time only thirteen properties are dependent on public wells for their water supply and of these two are condemned, although not yet vacated, and several others are likely to be condemned in the fairly near future. Public mains supply is available to ten of the dwellings involved but as the majority of these properties are sub-standard and several are occupied by elderly persons, it is unlikely that they will be connected to the mains until a change of ownership occurs.

Although a number of public wells have been taken out of use and sealed or otherwise made inaccessible, some of the "wells" are in fact land springs and it is, therefore, impossible to curb the flow of water. Consequently, while it is hoped that no properties will have to depend on these unsatisfactory sources of water supply in the future, these "wells" will remain available to the public.

Milk and Dairies

Register of Dairies

The number of registered dairies remained at four. These do not include dairies situated at dairy farms which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Register of Milk Distributors

Number on the Register at the beginning of 1967	...	...	13
Removed from the Register during the year	...	...	Nil
Added to the Register during the year	...	...	1
Total number of registered distributors	...	...	14

Six distributors, operating from premises outside the District, also retail milk, their premises being registered by the Local Authority in whose area they are situated.

Eleven dairy farms retail milk in the District.

No routine milk samples were taken by the Department during the year as intensive milk sampling is undertaken by the County Council's Sampling Officers and the results notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

The present situation, whereby County Councils, District Councils and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are each involved in various facets of Milk and Dairies administration, can only be regarded as undesirable and must result in overlapping of effort which is wasteful of time, staff and expenditure.

Ice-Cream

Register of Ice-Cream Premises

Number on Register at the beginning of 1967	...	...	90
Removed from Register during the year	...	...	3
Added to Register during the year	...	...	6
Number of registered premises at the end of year	...	...	93

The number of ice-cream manufacturers in the District has been increased from one to two, the “ cold-mix ” method being used in both cases.

Food Hygiene

The following is a brief analysis of the food premises in the District —

Category	Number	Number fitted to comply with Regulation 16*	Number fitted to comply with Regulation 19†
Bakers	5	5	5
Butchers	18	18	18
Caterers	26	26	26
Chemists	3	3	2
Fish and Chip Fryers ...	5	5	5
Fishmongers	1	1	1
General Shopkeepers ...	77	77	76
Grocers	28	28	28
Sweet Shopkeepers ...	9	9	9
TOTALS	172	172	170

* Regulation 16 relates to the provision of personal washing facilities and

† Regulation 19 to the provision of facilities for washing equipment and food.

All the premises to which Regulation 19 applies are fitted to comply therewith.

Meat and other Food Inspection

The following foodstuffs were inspected at various retail premises in the District and condemned as being unfit for human consumption :—

1 - 12 lbs. can cooked ham	...	...	Decomposition
140 lbs. hindquarters of beef	...	...	Bone Taint
1 - 9 lbs. can cooked pork shoulder	...	...	Decomposition

The quantity of canned foodstuffs condemned during the year was unusually small. The majority of shopkeepers in the District are aware of the need to report foodstuffs in doubtful condition to the Public Health Department, and wholesale suppliers usually require a certificate of unfitness before allowing credit to the retailer.

However, the reduction in the quantity of foodstuffs notified to the Department would appear to indicate that most of these goods are now being returned by the shopkeeper direct to the wholesaler, where they are examined and dealt with by the Public Health Inspector for that area.

A complaint was received from a member of the public regarding the onset of vomiting following consumption of canned sild. Investigation indicated that the sild probably caused this family's illness.

Another complaint was received of the presence of a dead wasp in a cream cake purchased at a local baker's shop. The wasp problem in the confectionery trade is difficult to eliminate without adopting extreme and costly measures. It can be controlled to a certain extent, however, both at the manufacturing premises and in the retail shops, although with more difficulty in the latter.

In the case in question an additional enclosed glass showcase was installed to prevent wasps having access to fresh cream cakes. It is of course impracticable to render shop premises completely insect-proof as the door is usually left open during the summer.

The more vulnerable items, such as products containing dairy cream, can be protected by the use of enclosed glass showcases, but as the amount of stock usually carried by many of these shops exceeds their showcase capacity, many cakes are displayed in unsatisfactory situations and wasps and flies are attracted.

It may be considered prudent, therefore, to reach a compromise between optimum hygiene standards and the desire the of shop-keeper to tempt the public with his wares. It is perhaps an indication of the lack of hygiene-awareness on the part of the public that most customers show more concern at the possibility of being stung by the wasps in confectionery shops than at the probability that their food is being contaminated.

The application of insecticides in such situations has met with only limited success and is not without the risk of contamination.

That illness attributable to the ingestion of contaminated dairy cream cakes is not common, is probably on account of the relatively short time which normally elapses between purchase and consumption and the fact that many households now have refrigerators in which to store these products if they are not to be eaten soon after purchase.

Slaughterhouses

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the District and no post-mortem meat inspection was carried out during the year.

Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961

As might be anticipated in a Rural District, many of the complaints received refer to problems arising from drainage disposal, particularly with regard to septic tanks.

The causes of malfunction of these septic tanks vary, but may generally be ascribed to bad siting of the tank, unsuitable sub-soils and lack of knowledge of the tank's limitations on the part of the householder.

Advice is normally offered by the Public Health Department when new septic tanks are being installed in an endeavour to minimise the risk of nuisance arising at a later date.

It has not been found necessary, however, during the past year to resort to formal action to secure the abatement of any nuisances that have arisen with regard to drainage.

One problem, peculiar to this area, which has been the subject of many complaints is that of the sheep which are allowed free range in the Forest. The difficulties arising from these animals are not inconsiderable.

It is common for the sheep to congregate at selected spots which afford them shelter from the elements and in time these places become extremely foul. As the places used by the sheep are often against the walls of houses, around entrance gates and on footpaths, the accumulations of excreta give rise to serious nuisance. Householders are often unable to open their windows during the summer because of the objectionable odours and at one village school many complaints were received as children were obliged to use the badly fouled footpaths to reach the school gates.

Once the sheep have decided to favour a particular spot it is extremely difficult to compel them to forsake it and some of the sheep-owners have been unco-operative in attempting to remedy these situations.

The sheep-owners claim common rights in respect of grazing their flocks on the open Forest but the validity of this claim is, to say the least, open to doubt.

The Forest of Dean Committee was appointed in 1955 with the following terms of reference :—

“ To review the situation in the Forest of Dean, and having regard to all existing rights and interests, to recommend such measures as they consider desirable and necessary to secure that the administration of the Forest, more particularly as regards the grazing of animals, may be adjusted to modern requirements.”

That Committee examined the problem of the free-grazing sheep in great detail and formed the opinion that the vast majority of the inhabitants of the Forest were opposed to these animals being allowed to roam free.

In their Report, produced in 1958, the Forest of Dean Committee put forward detailed recommendations on the establishment of enclosed Sheep Reserves in addition to other measures designed to control the sheep in the Forest.

Today, nine years later, no practical steps have been taken to implement these recommendations, and the sheep continue to cause nuisance to the general public.

Factories Act, 1961

Section 8

Factory premises registered at the commencement of 1967	...	67
Premises added to Register during the year	... ..	5
Premises removed from Register during the year	... ..	1
Number of registered factory premises at the end of 1967	...	71

Part I

I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	71	43	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	71	43	5	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	I	—	I	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	I	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	3	3	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	8	4	I	—	—

Section 133

One hundred and fourteen persons were listed as outworkers, all being in the employ of a local metal fastener manufacturing company.

General

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Details from Register of Site Licences :—

Number on Register at the end of 1966	...	...	...	...	79
Removed from Register on 31st December, 1966, because of expiry of Licence	...	...	...	...	24
On Register at commencement of 1967	...	...	...	...	55
Registered (including renewals) during 1967	...	...	...	...	24
Expired during 1967	...	...	...	...	Nil
On Register at the end of 1967	...	...	...	...	79

These are comprised as follows :—

Holiday sites	...	...	...	I
Residential Sites	...	...	...	78

The 78 residential site licences authorise the use of 157 caravans. At the end of the year, the number of caravans known to occupy these sites totalled 137.

Apart from these there are, throughout the District, eight caravans which are exempt from the licensing requirements of the Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 - 54

The destruction of rats and mice is still undertaken by a firm of specialists who have contracted with this Authority to operate under the general direction of the Public Health Department.

The following table summarises the year's work, additional to which are the bi-annual maintenance control treatments to the Coleford old culverts and the Lydbrook stream and culvert, in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

<i>Type of Premises Treated</i>				<i>Number of Premises Treated</i>	<i>Type of Infestation</i>	
					<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>
Agricultural	...	...	...	I	I	—
Business	...	...	...	13	13	—
Domestic	...	...	...	93	92	I
Local Authority	...	...	...	20	20	—
				—	—	—
				127	126	I
				—	—	—

Disinfestation

It was not necessary to treat any verminous property or persons during the year. In fact lice and bed bugs have never been encountered by me in my fifteen years with this Authority, and fleas hardly ever. Cock-roaches, silverfish and steam flies have occasionally given rise to complaints but not for several years.

The only complaints, relating to insects, which are received are those concerning the presence of ants, bees or wasps in, or near, habitable property. Advice is given in these cases, and occasionally, if the persons involved are old or infirm and unable to deal with the matter themselves, treatment is carried out for them.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

A register of Scrap Metal Dealers is maintained and at present eleven dealers are registered, one dealer having been added to the register during the year.

One registered dealer was prosecuted by the Police and convicted of offences relating to failure to maintain records and acquiring scrap metal from persons under sixteen years of age. Fines totalling £30 were imposed by the Court.

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the District.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry-dressing establishments in the District.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Previsions) Act, 1956

No complaints were received from persons employed in agricultural work and no contraventions of the Act were encountered during the course of routine inspections.

Petroleum Spirit and Calcium Carbide

Number of premises licensed to store petroleum spirit	...	54
Number of premises licensed to store calcium carbide	...	1

The petroleum spirit licences collectively authorise the storage of 129,520 gallons of that commodity, the major part of which is stored at filling stations and garages for resale, only 11,950 gallons being stored for private use by the various firms.

Several new petroleum storage installations were inspected and tested during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

No licences to slaughter animals were issued during the year.

Game Act, 1831

No dealer's licences under this Act were issued during the year.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

A considerable number of enquiries were received and dealt with, relating to Official Searches.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One licence was issued during the year authorising the use of premises in Coleford as a Pet Shop.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

One licence, subject to certain conditions, was issued to applicants at Joyford in respect of boarding kennels for dogs.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Of the 62 premises currently registered under the Act, only twelve remain to be inspected and it is anticipated that all premises, including any which may not yet have submitted O.S.R.1. forms, will have received general inspections by the end of 1968.

Twelve premises were inspected during 1967 and follow-up visits were made to a number of others to inspect work carried out and to offer advice on various aspects of the Act's requirements.

None of the premises receiving general inspection were found to comply with all the requirements of the Act, but in some cases the deficiencies were relatively minor, e.g. no thermometer, no Abstract posted, etc.

The following is an analysis of the defects found to exist in these twelve premises :—

Lack of adequate washing facilities	...	...	...	...	2
Lack of adequate First Aid requisites	...	...	...	...	8
Lack of thermometer	...	...	...	...	9
Inadequate temperature in workroom	...	...	...	...	1
No Abstract of the Act posted	...	...	...	...	11
Lack of ventilation to workroom	...	...	...	...	1
Lack of ventilation to sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	2
Inadequate lighting of workroom	...	...	...	...	1
Inadequate lighting of sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	1
Lack of adequate drying facilities for clothing	...	...	...	...	1
Lack of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	3
Inadequate guarding of machines	...	...	...	...	1
Dangerous stairs and unfenced floor openings	...	...	...	...	3
Unsatisfactory condition of ceilings, walls and floors	...	...	...	...	5
Obstruction of floors and stairways	...	...	...	...	2
Unsuitable seating for sedentary occupations	...	...	...	...	1
Lack of alternative means of heating	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient seats for shop employees	...	...	...	...	1
Lack of marking of separate sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	1

No accidents have as yet been reported to the local authority, although advice on this requirement has been given to employers during inspections.

No complaints or enquiries have been received from employees working in premises to which the Act applies.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

All properties from which it is possible to collect are served on a weekly basis by kerbside collection. Some properties are still completely inaccessible to vehicles and accordingly, dispose of their refuse as best they can. Collection takes place from approximately 6,000 properties and, based on occasional weighings, the amount of refuse collected varies between 80 and 90 tons per week. This means that each of the six men employed handles $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 tons of refuse per working day in addition to the weight of the bins which, it is estimated, involves approximately 2 tons per man. The men carry out all work involved in tip maintenance.

Not one justifiable complaint was received during the year.

A special meeting of the Public Health Committee was held to consider what changes should take place in the service in view of the statements and recommendations contained in the report of the Working Party on Refuse Collection.

The Committee came to the conclusion that no changes should take place for the time being, except that a special endeavour should be made to ensure that all householders provided for themselves a proper dustbin.

Clean Air Act, 1956

The emission of dark smoke from furnaces on industrial premises is not a serious problem in this District and it is only rarely that any action is required. No complaints were received from members of the public regarding this type of nuisance and no contraventions of the Clean Air Act were observed during the year.

One notification was received regarding the installation of a new oil-fired furnace and the erection of a new chimney to serve this furnace. The proposed chimney height was considerably below the standard recommended in the Ministry's memorandum, and following consultations between the Public Health Department and the factory management, it was agreed to increase the height of the chimney to meet the recommended standard.

Nuisances caused by the emission of grit and dust from stone-crushing and tarmacadam-manufacturing plants were, unfortunately, the subject of many complaints during the year, and attempts by the managements concerned to abate these nuisances have met with only limited success, mainly as the equipment installed has not been operated satisfactorily.

Due to the nature of the stone which is quarried, these emissions do not present an appreciable hazard to the health of local inhabitants but, under certain climatic conditions considerable nuisance is caused.

A number of these instances have been referred to the County Planning Authority as the conditions of the planning consent on some of these installations allows that authority also to exercise control.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Complaints were received in respect of two noise nuisances during the year, one caused by the use of a petrol-driven power saw at a sawmill and the other by the patrons and management of a social club in the late evening.

In the first case the owners of the sawmill proved to be very co-operative and obtained a device for muffling the saw and also undertook to use a much quieter electrically-operated saw when practicable. As a result no further complaints have been received in respect of these premises.

In the second case a petition was received from local residents complaining of the excessive noise coming from the Social Club and also the noise caused by patrons leaving the Club.

On investigation it was found that the complaints were justified and the Club's management committee were asked to take steps to reduce the volume of noise.

It was later found necessary, however, to serve an Abatement Notice and the position has since been considerably improved, steps having been taken to reduce the volume of noise from loudspeakers, to try to contain it within the Club, and to control members when leaving.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

H. Parks, B.E.M., C.ENG., M.I.MUN.E., M.INST.P.H.E., M.INST.H.E., reports as follows :—

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Northern Area

During 1967 the Council made considerable progress on the preparation of a public sewerage scheme for the Village of English Bicknor, with treatment of the sewage by tertiary treatment at the existing Lydbrook Sewage Disposal Works. At the close of the year the preparation of this scheme was substantially completed.

Central Area

In August of 1967, the Newland Sewage Disposal Works extensions were completed for the treatment of trade discharge from Beechams Foods Royal Forest Factory and additional sewage from parts of Broadwell and Berry Hill.

Certain properties in Coleford are not yet connected to the sewers, and the Council have now signed a contract for the laying of sewer extensions at the rear of a number of these properties, to enable this situation to be partly remedied.

Southern Area

The Council's Consulting Engineers had almost completed the preparation of a scheme to sewer this Area. It is a very comprehensive scheme involving the laying of approximately 50 miles of sewers and the construction of six sewage pumping stations. The scheme awaits the outcome of joint discussions with Lydney Rural District Council on the possibility of joint treatment at the proposed works at Lydney for the discharge of the effluent direct into the River Severn, instead of a works at Brockhollands.

Sewer Connections (other than those connections from new dwellings or alterations of existing dwellings).

(i)	Northern Area	...	...	...	...	...	8
(ii)	Central Area	...	...	...	...	...	23
Total							31

Housing

Improvement Grants and Loans

During 1967, 51 applications were made in connection with loans, either to purchase properties or improve them.

The Council considered and approved 58 Standard Grants and 11 Discretionary Grants.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr A. C. Luker, the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed :—

Council Houses

Parish	1967	Pre-war	Post-war including 1967	Total
COLEFORD	—	166	281	447
ENGLISH BICKNOR	—	8	16	24
STAUNTON	—	—	11	11
NEWLAND				
Clearwell	—	10	18	28
Redbrook	—	34	—	34
LYDBROOK				
Lydbrook	4	52	14	66
Joys Green	16	20	139	159
WEST DEAN				
Berry Hill	—	50	82	132
Bream	—	80	141	221
Broadwell	—	64	44	108
Ellwood	10	6	16	22
Milkwall	—	6	38	44
Parkend	2	12	49	61
Pillowell	—	12	—	12
Viney Hill	—	—	—	—
Whitcroft	—	30	30	60
Yorkley	—	42	91	133
TOTAL	32	592	970	1,562

Of the thirty-two dwellings completed and occupied during 1967, six were one bedroom type bungalows which were let to tenants of pensionable age.

In addition to the number of dwellings set out above, the Council own six other units of accommodation, all of which are occupied.

Private Houses

Sixty-seven were completed during the year, making a total of 683 during the post-war period.

Applicants for Council Accommodation

There were 366 applicants for Council houses, 107 of whom were pensioners asking for the tenancies of Old Persons Bungalows.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

Sewerage

Plans for the sewerage of the Southern Area progressed. I agreed with the County Public Health Officer that the possibility of treatment at the new Lydney sewage works should be investigated. Apart from the area of this scheme other places which need to be sewered are : Clearwell, Newland, Staunton, Redbrook, English Bicknor and the remaining unsewered parts of Broadwell and Berry Hill (including Christchurch).

Housing

It will be noticed from the Public Health Inspector's Report that 28 condemned houses were still occupied, together with 8 dwellings subject to Closing Orders and 4 subject to Undertakings under the Housing Act, 1957.

It is generally the duty of the Housing Authority to rehouse the occupiers of these dwellings and it is unfortunate that this has not been done, it being illegal for such dwellings to be occupied.

In August a report on the under-occupation of Council houses was made by the Housing Officer. This showed that there were 65 three bedroomed houses each occupied by only one person and approximately 190 three bedroomed houses by only two persons.

INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
Agriculture (Safety, Health, Welfare Provisions) Act, 1963	21, 38, 50, 67
Analyst	11
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	21, 39, 51, 68
Anthrax Order, 1938	9
Applications for Council Houses	24, 42, 54, 72
Berkeley and Oldbury Nuclear Power Stations	10
Brucellosis	11
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960	14, 31, 48, 66
Clean Air Act, 1956	21, 38, 52, 69
Common Lodging Houses	8
Deaths, Causes of	3, 4
Disinfestation	66
Disrepair Certificates under the Rent Acts, 1957	14, 28, 46, 67
Egg (Liquid) Pasteurisation Regulations, 1963	17, 39, 51, 67
Factories Act, 1961	18, 36, 49, 64
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960	15, 25, 33, 47, 61
Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966	15, 39
Food Poisoning	5
Foreign Bodies in Food	62
Game Act, 1831	39, 51, 67
Housing Act, legal action	9, 14, 27, 45, 57
Housing Progress (new houses)	24, 41, 54, 71
Ice-Cream	15, 32, 46, 61
Improvement Grants	24, 42, 52, 59, 71
Infectious Diseases	5, 6
Inhabited Dwellings, numbers of	13, 27, 45, 56
Land Charges Act, 1925	21, 39, 50, 67
Lead from Burning Battery Cases	8, 38
Lead in Drinking Water	8
Meat Inspection	16, 33, 48, 61, 62
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959	15, 32, 51, 60
National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47	8
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	21, 39, 52, 69
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	19, 40, 47, 68
Pests, Prevention of Damage by, Act, 1949	17, 34, 51, 66
Pet Animals Act, 1951	21, 39, 51, 68
Petroleum, Licences to store	38, 53, 67
Poultry Inspection	17, 39, 51, 67
Populations, Estimates	9, 13, 27, 45, 56
Public Health Act, Nuisances	21, 35, 63
Public Health Inspectors' Reports	13, 27, 45, 57
Public Health Laboratories	11
Refuse Collection	23, 41, 52, 69
Salmonellosis	5, 32
Scrap Metal Dealers Licences, 1964	39, 53, 67
Shipping, Lydney	35
Slaughterhouses	16, 33, 48, 62
Slaughtermen's Licences (Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958)	16, 34, 48, 67
Slum Clearance	9, 14, 28, 46, 57
Surveyors' Reports	41, 52, 70
Swimming Pools	21, 43
Tuberculosis	6
Water Sampling	31, 42, 60
Water Supplies	7, 15, 42, 49
Wells	60

